

Message Text

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PASS US CUSTOMS FOR ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER RAYMOND

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: AORG,CCC-3
SUBJECT: CCC: COUNCIL PREMISES

REF: (A)BRUSSELS 11277; (B) USCUSTOMS DTG 231827Z NOV 76

1.FIRST SECRETARY ASAHINA OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS
ASKED US TO OBTAIN US GOVERNMENT VIEWS ON PROCEDURE BEING
FOLLOWED FOR ACQUISITIO OF NEW CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL
PREMISES.ASAHINA IS JAPANESE DELEGATE TO THE CCC FINANCE
COMMITTEE AND "GROUP OF 5"(WHICH ALSO INCLUDES THE US,UK,
FRG AND FRANCE).HE REQUESTS AN URGENT REPLY.

2.ACCORDING TO ASAHINA,CCC SECRETARY GENERAL ANNEZ
DE TABOADA (BELGIAN)INTENDS TO CIRCULATE A LETTER WITHIN
A FEW DAYS TO ALL CCC MEMBERS,DESCRIBING THE COUNCIL'S
PLANS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT ON TAKING
A SHARE OF THE BUILDING DESCRIBED IN REFTEL A,
IF THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT SUCCEEDS IN ACQUIRING
THE BUILDING.ANEZ PROPOSES
TO FOLLOW THIS LETTER IN ABOUT ONE MONTH WITH A POSTAL BALLOT
REQUESTING AUTHORITY FOR THE CCC SECRETARIAT TO PROCEED.
HIS DRAFT LETTER (WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN)APPARENTLY SAYS
THAT THE OTHER FOUR MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE " GROUP OF 5"
ALL APPROVE OF THE COUNCIL'S PLAN.ANEZ HAS ASKED THE
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JAPANESE WHETHER THEY WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT UNANIMOUS,
FOR PURPOSES OF THIS LETTER.

3.THE JAPANESE ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER ADDING THEIR
APPROVAL TO THAT O OTHER IN THE "GROUP OF 5".FIRST,
HOWEVER,THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CLARIFICATION OF THE VIEWS

OF OTHERS,ESPECIALLY THE US.THEY WANT TO KNOW WHETHER THE USG HAS IN FACT AGREED TO THE SECRETARIAT'S PLAN TO BUY A SHARE OF THE AVENUE LOUISE BUILDING.(WE QUOTED TO ASAHINA FROM REFTEL B TO MAKE CLEAR THE LIMITED AND CONDITIONAL NATURE OF THE US AGREEMENT) IN ADDITION,THE JAPANESE WANT TO KNOW WHETHER THE USG WAS AWARE THAT THE SECGEN'S DRAFT LETTER REFERS TO USG SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PROCEDURE,AND WHETHER WE AGREED TO HIS GOING AHEAD WITH SUCH A LETTER.ASAHINA ADDS THAT SMALLER AND LESS DEVELOPED CCC MEMBERS ARE EXPRESSING UNAHPPINESS WITH DEROGATION FROM PROCEDURES FOR ACQUISITION OF NEW COUNCIL PREMISES AGREED UPON AT THE JUNE ANNUAL MEETING.HE SAYS IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT AN OPPORTUNITY CAME UP THAT REQUIRED AN URGENT DECISION, BUT ALL THE SAME IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO HAVE ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION AND COORDINATION ON HOW TO PROCEED FROM HERE.

4.SINCE ANNEZ'S LETTER IS SUPPOSED TO BE SENT WITHIN A FEW DAYS,AND THE JAPANESE MUST DECIDE BEFORE THEN WHETHER THEY WISH TO BE INCLUDED WITH OTHER "GROUP OF " COUNTRIES AS APPROVING THE SECGEN'S PLAN,ASAHINA REQUESTS USG VIEWS URGENTLY. FIRESTONE

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